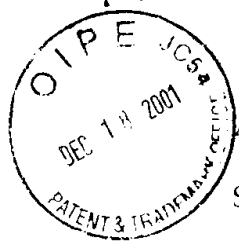


GP 1323



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLN. OF: SMITS et al

SERIAL NO.: 09/943,574

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Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

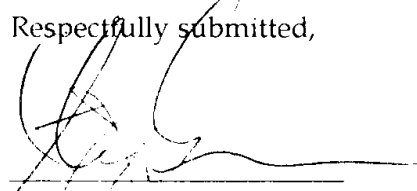
Dear Sir:

In connection with the above-entitled matter, Applicants hereby attach U.S. Patent Office Form PTOL-1449, including copies of the prior art references listed therein together with the English language abstracts. These references are discussed in the specification. The claims in the present application are believed to be patentably distinguished over these references.

This information disclosure statement is being made pursuant to the duty of disclosure imposed by law and formulated in 37 CFR 1.56(a). No representation is made that the information thus disclosed in fact constitute prior art or that it is the closest prior art, inasmuch as 37 CFR 1.56(a) relies on a materiality concept which depends on subjectivity.

In the event there are any fee deficiencies or additional fees are payable, please charge them (or credit any overpayment) to our Deposit Account No. 08-1391.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Steven J. Grossman, Ph.D.  
Attorney for Applicant  
Reg-No. 35,001

SJG: lc



CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner of Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on December 25, 2001 at Manchester, New Hampshire.

By: Kimberly Stevens

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